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REMARKS TO THE PRESS BY SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER
AND SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI GROMYKO, FOLLOWING
THEIR MEETING SEPTEMBER 19, 1975

FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO: (Through interpreter)

Ladies and Gentlemen, we have met with the Secretary of State to discuss some important matters, and if I were to speak specifically, let me say that we met today to discuss the question of preparing a new agreement on the limitation of strategic arms. Let me say in advance and I trust that you will welcome this, that I will not enter into any of the details of our discussion. And we have on both sides reaffirmed once again that the agreement reached at Vladivostok between the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Leonid Brezhnev, and President Ford of the United States is a good and sound basis for a new agreement. And the second point I would like to make: the preparation of this new agreement is of course a very serious piece of business. But each new meeting, including meetings at the Foreign Minister level, constitutes a new contribution to the preparation to the finalization of and to the preparation of this new Strategic Arms Limitation agreement. If you were now to draw the conclusion that I have ended my little statement, you would be absolutely right.

Secretary KISSINGER: I would like to say that we reviewed in great detail the positions on the SALT agreement which we

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are negotiating. It was a useful discussion which we will continue on Sunday night in New York.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, it has been suggested that you are reasonably close to a resolution of the SALT agreement, it needing only a major political decision on either side. Would you give us some indication of whether this political decision is any nearer?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Well, as the Foreign Minister said, every meeting that we have had has brought the conclusion nearer and has been a useful step forward, and I would include this meeting in this category.

QUESTION: Mr. Secretary, are you hopeful an agreement can be reached before the end of the year?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I am hopeful that an agreement can be reached before the end of the year, but we have to continue working on it.

QUESTION: But you would go to Moscow before, Mr. Secretary, wouldn't you?

FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO: Nothing is excluded.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: See, the foreign Minister says nothing is excluded.

QUESTION: Could you give an answer of your own, Mr. Secretary?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: Generally, before visits of the General-Secretary with the President I have visited Moscow. And I would not be surprised if it occurred this time.
